(a). No, Sir. The Command Area Development Programme has not been relegated and secondary importance.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to further improve the performance of the Command Area Development Programme, an Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chiarmanship of the Union Minister (Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs) to advise on measures to increase effectiveness of the programme. Efforts are being made to strengthen, the monitoring set up. This year, monitoring of the programme would be carried out through field formations of the Central Water Commission and private agencies. Steps for increased fanners' participation have also been taken.

corruption in Lalit Kala Akademy

*87. SHRI MOHAMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that national newspapers of all languages are full of stories concerning corruption, embezzlement of public fund, nepotism and allegations of selling of rare palm leaf paintings of Orissa by the officials of Lalit Kala Akademy;

(b) whether the Department of Culture, Government of India instituted any inquiry on the happenings in the Lalit Kala Akademy; and

(c) why the Department of Culture has failed in excercising any control over the misdeeds of the officials of the Lalit Kala Akademy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary enquiries were made with Lalit Kala Akademi regarding these complaints and their comments obtained.

(c) The Lalit Kala Akademi is an autonomous organisation. Its Chairman is appointed by the President of India and the Chief Executive namely, the Secretary by the Executive Board of the Akademi. Government do not have the power to issue directives or amend its constitution. Government do not have any say in its day-to-day activities and do not exercise control over its officials.

Import of Iron ore by private sector companies

*88. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed some private sector companies in steel industry to import large quantities of iron ore this year;

(b) if so, which are these companies and the quantity of iron ore proposed to be imported by each of them; and

(c) what are the reasons which necessitated the import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a). Government permission for import of iron ore is not required under the current Export-Import Policy (1992—97) and such import is freely allowed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Modernisation programme to increase the production of pig iron, sponge iron and steel

*89. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to increase the production of pig iron, sponge iron and steel through modernisation programme;

(b) if so, the details of the production

of each of these items during the last three yean;

(c) the details of the modernisation programme undertaken plant-wise and the investment made during the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of increase in production and value thereof of pig iron, sponge iron and steel as a result of such modernisation scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a). To increase the production of pig iron and steel, SAIL has taken up modernisation of its plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. SAIL plants do not produce sponge iron.

A large number of pig iron, sponge iron and steel units are in the private sector. As per the new industrial policy these units are free to undertake modernisation.

(b) The production of pig iron, sponge iron and steel during the last three years was as under:

(million tonnes)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Pigiron	1.84	2.23	2.78
Sponge iron	1.55	2.42	3.31
finished steet	15.20	15.20	17.22

(c) The plant-wise details of modernisation of SAIL's plants are as follows:

Bokaro Steel Plant

Government has approved Stage-I modernisation at a cost of Rs. 1792.90 crores, which is likely to be completed by July 1997. The scope of modernisation includes:

(i) Reconstruction of existing Steel Melting Shop No. 2.

(ii) Installation of 2 nos. Double Stand Slab Casters.

(iii) Partial upgradation of 2000 mm Hot Strip Mill.

(iv) Related service facilities.

The expenditure incurred on modernisation in the last three years is as follows:

1992-93	Rs.	0.52 crores
1998-94	Rs.	3.92 crores
1994-95	Rs.	200.58 crores

Durgapur Steel Plant

Government has approved modernisation programme. The anticipated cost is Rs. 4563.17 crores. The project is under advanced stage of completion with major production already completed. Balace facilities are likely to be completed by March 1996. The scope of modernisation includes:

(i) Revamping of coal washery.

(ii) One new coke oven battery with product by plant.

(iii) Reconstruction of 3 existing blant Furnaces.

(iv) One sinter plant with 198 square meter hearth are.

(v) One new basic Oxygen Furnace Complex.

(vi) One new continuous casting plant.

(vii) Associated auxiliaries like oxygen plant, lime calcination, ladle repair shop etc.

(viii) Introduction of modern instrumentation and computerisation.

(ix) New wheel plant with oil hydraulics and wheel mill.

(x) New computerised numeric control machines for machining of wheels.

The expenditure incurred on modernisation in the last three years is as follows:

1992-93	Rs.	937.56 crores
1993-94	Rs.	523.35 crores
1994-95	Rs.	419.69 crores

Rourkela Steel Plant

Government has approved RSP modernisation (Phase-I) and (Phase-II). The aniticipated cost is Rs. 4168 crores. Phase-I modernisation was completed in March 4. The Phase-II work is likely to be completed by Ausgust 1996.

The major facilities envisaged under modernisation are as follows:

Phase-I

(i) Mechanised storage and blending of raw materials.

(ii) Conveyor feeding at Blast Furnace No. 4.

(iii) Introduction of combined blowing in converters.

(v) New oxygen Plant (Ist -Unit).

Phase-II

(i) One new sinter plant..

(ii) Installation of a new LD shop.

(iii) Instalation of slab casters.

(iv) Installation of one additional roughing stand, 2 new reheating furnaces and quick work roll changing rigs in hot Strip mill.

(v) New oxygen Plant (2nd Unit).

The expenditure incurred in the last 3 years is as follows:

1992-93	Rs.	350.88 crores
1993-94	Rs.	457.07 crores
1994-95	Rs.	870.63 crores

(d) The compulative increase in production and sales value thereof (at current prices), as a result of the above modernisation schemes is as follows:

(Qty. in million toones)

Pig Iron		Saleable Steel	
Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
0.077 MT	Rs.50 crores	1.701 MT	Rs.2750 crores

Disaster Management Scheme in Orissa

*SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRAICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any separate scheme under "Disaster Mangement" has been prepared is under consideration, by the Central Government for the State of Orissa which is affected by natural calamities in the shape of drought, cyclone and flood almost every year:

(b) the amount of grants-in-aid sanctioned/released to the State Government of Orissa to make up the damages caused by the cyclonic storms in the month of May 1995; and

(c) the details of the grants?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The Government of India have advised the State Governments to prepare Contingency Plans for disaster management. It is for the Government of Orissa to prepare suitable plans for meeting the situation created by natural calamities such as drought, cyclone and flood.

(b) and (c) Government of India have released three quarterly instalments of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund, two of them in advance, aggregating Rs. 26.0175 crores during 1995-96 to enable the State Government to undertake relief and restoration measures in the wake of